



File
FTC # 25

Federal Trade Commission *Washington, D.C. 20580*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 15, 1981

FTC CIGARETTE REPORT SHOWS MORE BRANDS ON MARKET
WITH LOW "TAR," NICOTINE, CARBON MONOXIDE LEVELS

Test results released today by the Federal Trade Commission show an increase in the number of cigarettes with low "tar," nicotine and carbon monoxide levels.

The report shows that 150 of the 200 brands tested have no more than 15 milligrams of "tar," compared with 125 of the 187 brands reported last May. There are 10 cigarettes that registered less than .05 milligrams of "tar" on the Commission's testing machine, up from only one in May. The number of brands with one milligram or less of nicotine is 136, up from 111 reported in May. The results also show that cigarettes containing 10 milligrams or less of carbon monoxide numbered 85, nearly double May's showing of 44 cigarettes.

Samples tested for the report released today were obtained by purchasing two packages of each variety of cigarettes in 50 locations throughout the U.S. during March and April 1981.

In a Federal Register notice announcing the test results, the Commission also noted it is investigating a complaint from a group of cigarette companies that the current test method does not accurately assess the "tar" and nicotine levels in Barclay cigarettes relative to the levels of other cigarettes. The companies claim that Barclay, which delivers one milligram of "tar" under the current FTC method, actually delivers more "tar" to the smoker than do other one milligram "tar" cigarette brands. The reason for this, the companies say, is the Barclay filter design, which may release more "tar" to a person than to the FTC test machine.

Testing of the "tar" and nicotine content of cigarettes began in 1967 in response to a request by former Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, then chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee.

(more)

PM3001060552

The Federal Register notice announcing the test results is scheduled to appear on Dec. 18.

Copies of the "Report of 'Tar,' Nicotine and Carbon Monoxide of the Smoke of 200 Varieties of Cigarettes" can be obtained from the FTC's Public Reference Branch, Room 130, 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580; 202-523-3598.

Press copies are available from FTC's Office of Public Affairs, Room 496, same address as above; 202-523-3830.

#

MEDIA CONTACT: Janet Bass, Office of Public Affairs,
202-523-1848

STAFF CONTACT: Matthew Myers, Bureau of Consumer Protection,
202-724-1490. For technical questions, call
Harold C. Pillsbury, Bureau of Consumer
Protection, 202-523-3559

[Cig81]

PM3001060553